



The Half Life

Jennifer Weiner

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From Redbook's Red-Hot Read series, a short story by the New York Times #1 best-selling author of *In Her Shoes* and *Fly Away Home*

"My life is over," Piper DeWitt thinks to herself, awaiting departure in the overcrowded International Terminal of the Philadelphia airport for an overseas business trip, to romantic Paris no less. She watched as her husband, Tosh, put his own suitcase into the trunk of a taxi the day before. He'd been telling her for months that he wasn't happy, and though she still wants to believe it is just a phase, after a call to her mother from the Admiral's Club, she can no longer deny that he's left her, left their home, left their four-year-old daughter in her mother's sole care.

Piper met Tosh when she was only twenty-two, just the way self help books said she would – when she wasn't looking. Now at forty, she wonders how, through all those years, they'd gotten to this place in their marriage. When her flight is canceled due to volcanic ash spreading from Iceland across Europe, and when a handsome stranger offers her an invitation to share a cab, she realizes she can take a departure from her own life. And after a day of living like a tourist in her own city, she hopes she can still find her way home...

The Half Life Details

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Author : Jennifer Weiner

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From Reader Review The Half Life for online ebook

Kristie (fabk) says

Unlike a lot of people, I knew this was a short story. I really enjoyed it. It was quick, easy to get into and got to the point quickly. It did seem to wrap up really quickly, however I don't feel like I missed out on anything important. It was a great quick read!

SavageGrace says

I may be the only person who truly hated Mary - a woman who was in the background and really barely a blip on the radar (even if she is the "other woman") but, yuck... what a horrible creature. Happy or not, Tosh is a complete idiot for falling for her pathetic "helpless female" routine.

He was right about one thing though: he ISN'T good enough for Pippa! But he is perfect for a manipulative, home-wrecking trollop like Mary! =P

Sarah Wright says

I agree with other readers of this book that it was too short. I'm just glad it was a free download on my Kindle. I love Jennifer's work though.

Chele Pedersen-Smith says

How to Be the Person You Used to Be.

When you're invested and in love, have a child, and then dumped--wham! It knocks the breath out of you. You wander (and wonder) around in a fog only half existent and this short story captures that feeling. But it's what the one left behind does to rise again that builds character.

Piper is a powerful career woman. Even she falls victim to a love life crumbling. No one is immune. Just as she leaves for a business trip, Tosh breaks the news and hands her a letter. In line for security, she's distraught, a million insecurities jabbing her heart. Then air travel is grounded by volcano ash. Since flights are canceled, she loathes going home to face her demise, so she opts for a hotel instead. Sharing a cab with Mark, a tall stranger she met in line, she decides to fling caution and care away in his bed. Who knows, a one night stand might just be the trajectory she needs to set her back on course.

I enjoy Jennifer Weiner's style and her descriptive ways, but I found the solution of sex with a stranger, well, a bit strange. Maybe because I didn't find Mark appealing, but I am neither the writer nor the recipient. Sure, it's a fun fantasy and that is what a good story is, safe from real life. And when Piper faces Tosh again, (I love the names!) it is a surprising, satisfying yet "huh?" moment.

For anyone who has been through Cupid's wringer, this story of finding yourself and emerging strong will resonate.

*I read this story in Redbook magazine years ago and always thought it was an excerpt. No wonder my library searches turned up empty. I was happy to find it on Amazon and surprised to jog my memory of it being a short story. When I got to the end, I realized I had read the whole thing after all. Bummer. I wanted there to be more.

Pamela says

Finished 5/28/16. Listened via Audible. This was a good short story, with a character that was reasonably well developed considering it was only an hour and a half long. While I wish I knew more about pipers mom and tosh for that matter, it was a nice story with beginning, middle and end. Clearly my expectations weren't that high.

Andrea says

I got this "e-book" on my Nook and it turned out to be a short (and I mean VERY short - about 30 pages) story. The remaining 100+ pages were Weiner's other books excerpts. This book is a two part story that was in Redbook last summer. I was annoyed that I thought I purchased a book and it was just a story that I could have read online. I also didn't really care for the ending of the story, it was just weird and not very realistic. Sorry JW you know I ADORE you but I really didn't like this one and I hope that readers didn't miss out on exploring your other books based on this one silly story that to me does not represent your gift for bring wonderful (realistic) characters to life.

Kristen Otankis says

Huge fan of Jennifer Weiner. I'll give this a four star because all that is lacking is MORE of a book! But, alas, it is a short story.

Robyn says

Great character development. Odd ending, would have been a great long story. Telling a good short story is hard, Weiner does it well. She paints a rich picture.

Amy says

So you must know that there's really no point in me writing a review b/c I absolutely love any and all of Jennifer Weiner's books. So of course I'm not surprised that I read this in one sitting...it is a short story after all. I want to go pick up any of Jennifer's previous books and jump in to her marvelous story telling.

Gwen says

I bought this for my NOOK and thought it would be a good short story to read, but was sadly disappointed when it was only about 20 pages and left me wanting to know more about what happens to the characters. Also not thrilled that they did not provide a better description that the story was only 20 pages and the next 130 were nothing but snippets of her other novels.

Laura says

I was so excited to realize this was a story about a consultant! But I think too many writers don't realize that consultants aren't all about firing people (a la Up in the Air). This didn't really capture what it's like to travel for work, relying on a cheap affair as a plot device.

Marcia says

I thought this was a proper book not a short story.

So I feel cheated. Hmmm.

And I thought there was a problem with ME figuring out my Kindle because I couldn't get it to jump to the rest of the book (which there isn't).

Clearly that means the ending was that unremarkable.

Disappointed, and I'm a BIG Jennifer Weiner fan usually.

Adrienne says

Nice short read - only takes an hour. A good story...although because it's short, you feel like it ends too soon, just as you are getting into the characters. I wanted to know what would happen next!

Sarah says

Saw this on Kobo and it was only 1.99 so I thought why not? I was disappointed that it was so short. Overall it was an okay story, I just couldn't relate to the main character. If my husband left me for another woman I certainly would not handle it the way she did. There would be no trying to win him back and wishing only good things for him like this character. My style is a whole lot more dignified, including clothes strewn about in the street, a smashed computer in the driveway and a knee to the groin.

Mary Anne says

I have read other books by Jennifer Weiner that I have enjoyed. This was just way, way too short. Not really long enough to develop characters or story line. Glad it was a free download for my kindle as it would have been a waste of money to pay for it.
